

Appleby Archaeology

Notes of the Committee Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group held on Thursday May 31st at Swindalehead Barn.

Present

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|-----------------|----------------------|
| Phyl Rouston | Chair |
| Carol Dougherty | Membership Secretary |
| Martin Joyce | Newsletter Editor |
| Tony Greenwood | Publicity |
| Stephen Walker | |
| Richard Stevens | Secretary |

Apologies

Mike Godfrey
Martin Railton

Notes of the last meeting

The notes were agreed as a correct record.

1/5/12 Matters arising

5/2/12 Phyl said that her discussion with Vivien Gates concerning possible joint activities with the Appleby-in-Westmorland Society had come to nothing since there is no real overlap in interests.

7/2/12

- Phyl had written to Liz Hawkins thanking her for her contribution to the group's activities.
- A stock of stamps had been purchased & provided to those needing a supply.
- The C&W Herald has said that they would be happy to publish an accompanying photograph with our reports if there were sufficient space in that weeks issue.
- Following the discussions on the Group Insurance Policy with regard to a possible lower age limit, Richard said that as well as reviewing the policy himself, the subject had been raised on the CBA Community Forum recently. In both cases, it now seemed clear that there was no lower limit as far as insurance was concerned. However, there was a case to answer regarding child protection and this impacted on another major subject discussed at the previous meeting, that of attracting younger members.

Phyl mentioned that Trish Shaw had offered to talk to 5th and/or 6th forms at the Grammar School and that it had been decided to wait to find out the results of the insurance review before going forward with this. **(Post meeting note: Phyl will follow up with Trish later in the summer)**

- Richard said that he had contacted the CBA regarding attracting new and younger members and had received a reply from the Young Archaeologists Club (YAC) coordinator, which had been circulated to the committee. The YAC were trying to form a local group in Penrith and had agreed to keep him informed of the progress. Richard had offered the YAC a talk to the new group by one of our two professional archaeologists. **(Richard)**

Following further discussions, the meeting decided to concentrate their recruitment efforts on older teenagers in order to avoid as much as possible the extra work involved with under 16 child protection issues. It was suggested that help might be forthcoming from Dot Bruins, who seemed to have a lot of contact with schools. **(Richard)**

- It was also noted that the Group now had an excellent Facebook page, courtesy of Martin R, who was also taking care of keeping the page current.

2/5/12 Membership

Carol received a cash renewal from Tony Greenwood at the meeting. There had also been three new members and the subscriptions for all four were given to Martin J to pass to Mike Godfrey.

The 2011-12 membership list on Google Docs would be archived and a new one set up for the next year.
(Martin J)

3/5/12 Treasurer's Report

Martin J presented the accounts for the period 1st Mar. – 31st May. The balance on May 31st was £744.50. The invoice for the hire of Brampton village hall was tabled by Phyl & passed to Martin J for Mike Godfrey. Mike had raised the subject of an apparent additional £10 membership fee for the CBA centre groups. It was agreed that Richard would review the benefits of membership & report back but the general feeling was that we had not received very much benefit from membership of CBA North in the past. (Richard)

4/5/12 Research 2012

Following receipt of 20 feedback forms from the membership (out of a newsletter circulation of about 58), Martin R had reviewed the results & had found that most respondents were keen to experience a broad range of activities, with some being more popular than other. He had therefore concluded the following which Phyl presented to the meeting:

1. The group should carry out more fieldwalking and ringfence any profits from the workshop in order to fund future consumables which may be required. This would now be unlikely to take place before autumn ploughing in September/October. The finds workshop, which is primarily for those people who attended the workshop & subsequent fieldwalking day, will be held at the Wardell Armstrong premises at Cocklakes, near Carlisle, on 19th July and a presentation would be made by the W-A finds officer. Martin has produced a flyer for insertion in the summer newsletter.
2. Martin suggested that the group carry out a survey of barrows on Brackenber Moor as a follow up to the discovery of the burials last year. This could take place in July, probably to coincide with the CBA Festival of Archaeology.
3. Regarding the Altogether Archaeology Project, Martin was in touch with Paul Frodsham at the AONB and after the funding for the continuation of the Project is officially announced, probably in June, there might be some more news, although there is unlikely to be any further excavation until 2013.
4. Martin had received an invitation for the group to provide a stall at the Penrith Show in order to raise our profile by using displays and exhibiting finds. The meeting decided not to take up the invitation.

5/5/12 Correspondence

The following correspondence has been received:-

Richard had received two copies of the CLHF Bulletin, one of which had been passed to the Chair. Recent copies of the Bulletin were now available online to members of all affiliated Societies & Richard had circulated the email list with details of how to gain access.

Phyl had received the Appleby-in-Westmorland Society Newsletter. She will contact the Society and request that it be sent to the admin email address electronically in future, it can then be circulated to the email list who should obtain some benefit from the local information it contains.

Richard had received emails from various organisations – none worthy of discussion, except that received from Matthew Town at W-A Archaeology who had requested a link with the Group on the LinkedIn network. After some consideration, a reply had been sent to Matthew explaining that we didn't feel it appropriate for an amateur group like ours to join a professional network like LinkedIn.

6/5/12 Programme

The winter programme was now confirmed as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Samantha Walsh (UCLAN) | 9 th October | Analysis of Brackenber cremations |
| Don O'Meara (W-A Arch.) | 13 th November | Medieval drainage & cess pits |
| Alastair Robertson | 11 th December | Recent work at Whitley Castle |
| Dot Boughton (PAS) | February 12 th | The Viking Hoard at Silverdale |
| Blaise Vyner | March 12 th | Prehistoric Pottery of Fylingdales Moor |
| Fraser Brown (Oxford Arch North) | April 9 th | The Carlisle Northern Distributor Road |

Phyl said that congratulations were due to all & that getting the whole programme organized in such a short time was probably a record.

Tony said that the walk to Ninekirks had been very successful, with around 12 attending in excellent weather. It was felt that an emailed reminder just before the summer events was useful & Richard said that he would do so for all summer events, the next being for Stephen's walk in Mallerstang in mid June. The meeting location for this walk would be in the summer newsletter. **(Richard)**

Carol had confirmed that the Hornby trip would be on 7th July and the membership had been informed through the insert in the spring newsletter. However, Richard said that the take-up from the membership had been non-existent. Richard said that he would offer 2 seats to go with the 6 already on offer from Martin J & Derrick Martin. Two more committee members (Phyl, Tony) said that they would provisionally attend, with cars if necessary. A reminder would go in the summer newsletter – if members were aware that seats were available & that they had to do something by a certain date, this might hopefully produce some response. **(Richard)**

7/5/12 AOB

Stephen reported back to the meeting on his visit to Durham to take part in the launch of the NE Heritage Partnership. Although strictly speaking a Northeast event, there seemed to be no bar on attendance from Cumbria. Stephen was struck by the lack of knowledge of many of those attending. The Project (All our Stories) is a rich source of funding for community groups and some of our activities would certainly qualify. The funding is in HLF grant form, with parallel Arts & Humanities funding for universities to provide expertise. No decisions were made at the committee meeting concerning any possible application by App. Arch. **(But see note below.)**

Richard spoke about the launch event of Epiacum Heritage Ltd, which he had attended with Phyl. Both were impressed with the enthusiasm of the organizers & Phyl in particular said that the walk around the site was extremely informative. Richard would provide a short piece for the newsletter, although the event had been well covered in the local media. **(Richard)**

Finally, it was suggested that the Group could look once more at organizing a trip further afield than the usual summer walks. This could be a few days away or even a week, as is common with some similar societies. Phyl explained that this had been tried in 2001 with a trip to Kilmartin but fell foul of the foot & mouth epidemic, so had to be cancelled. The committee had tried again in 2002 but there was no support from the membership. The committee agreed to think about this in the coming months & possibly raise the subject at the AGM in January. **(All)**

Date and Time of next meeting **Thursday September 13th at 7.30pm**, Pear Tree Cottage, Skirwith.

Post-meeting note:

I've had a look at the All our Stories website & copied this paragraph from the section relating to Archaeology:

Community groups have bought equipment, received professional training and exhibited their discoveries, and local councils have used our funding to get more people involved in archaeology. From helping volunteers carry out geophysical surveys to training unemployed people in cataloguing archaeological finds in a work environment, our projects also give people the chance to be active and develop new skills.

This seems to be up our street. The programme appears to be a one-off subset of the normal HLF funding stream, which we have previously accessed through Awards for All. The only problem I can see is that the closing date for applications for this stream is 31st July this year, so we would have to do something quickly, although of course we can apply to the HLF at any time.

More at <http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/allourstories.aspx>

RS 4/6/2012